

Pericles abbreviated

Act 1, Scene 1

Insight

Situation: Pericles has read the Riddle. He now realizes that the king and his daughter have an incestuous relationship. He wisely decides it's time to leave Antioch and return to Tyre, and to return promptly.

PERICLES: Great king, who has a book of all that monarchs do, he's more secure to keep it shut than shown. For vice repeated is like the wand'ring wind, which blows dust in others' eyes to spread itself. King's are earth's gods; in vice their law's their will; and if Jove stray, who dares say Jove doth ill?

ANTIOCHUS ASIDE: Heaven, that I had thy head! He has found the meaning. But I will use flattering words with him. Young Prince of Tyre, we might proceed to cancel your days, yet hope, succeeding from so fair a tree as your fair self, doth tune us otherwise.

All except Pericles exit.

Pericles to Himself, No. 1

**His courteous attempt to cover sin,
Exposing me to the hypocrite in
Him, is good only in its appearance.
If I do falsely interpret this myth,
Then it is certain in such circumstance
That it's approved to abuse your soul with
Foul incest, he being both a father
And a son with his course claspings with her,
Pleasure which befits a husband, not a
Father. Antioch, farewell. We do see
Men blush not in actions blacker than the
Night, keeping actions from the light. The key
To keeping my head with me which is dear
Is flight. I'll shun the danger which I fear.**